CIVIL WAR

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WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

SECRET WARS

MARVEL

4

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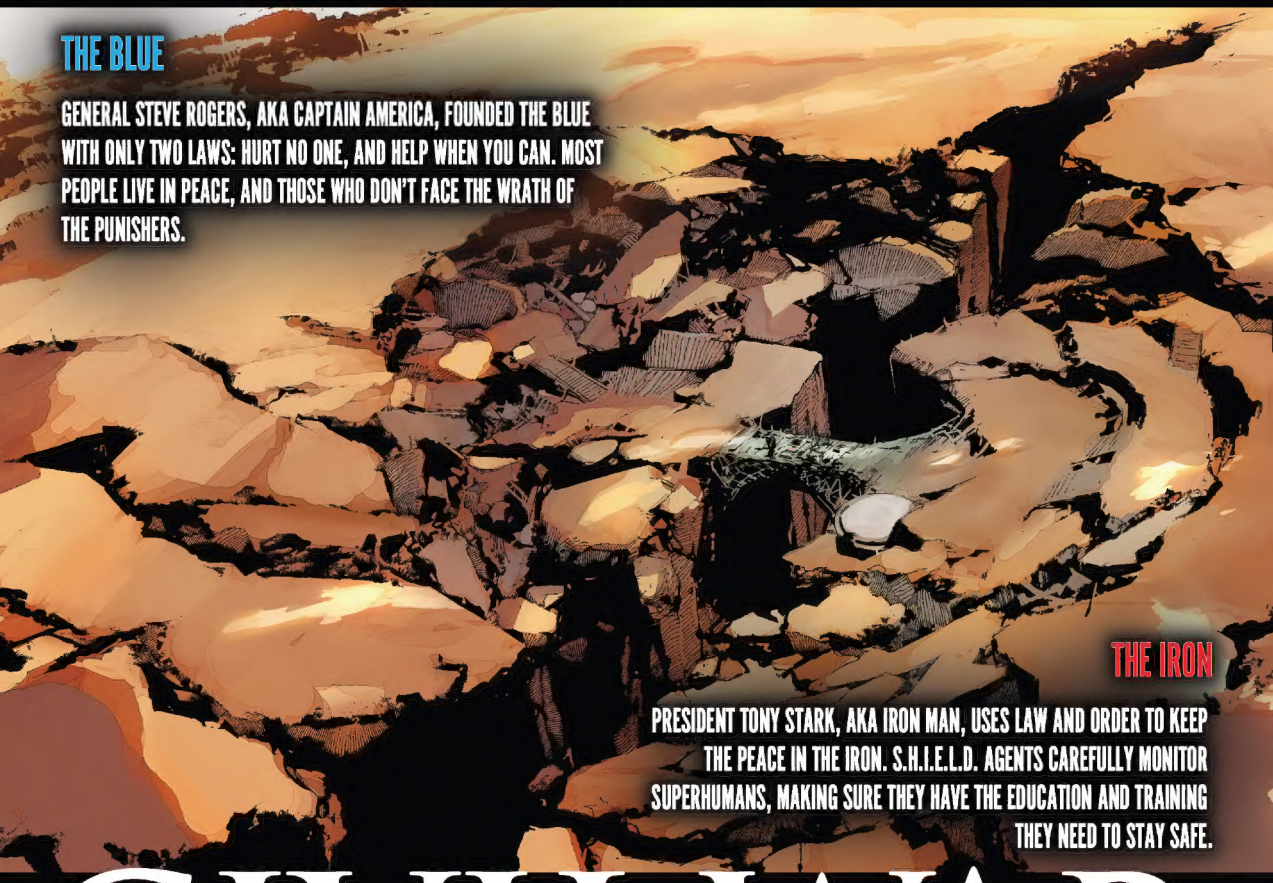
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED! NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD!**

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF, AND IN THE DOMAIN CALLED THE WARZONE, THE WAR OVER THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT NEVER ENDED. THE BATTLE IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO END THE WAR INSTEAD CAUSED AN EXPLOSION THAT KILLED FIFTEEN MILLION PEOPLE, AND THE DOMAIN WAS SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE.


THE BLUE
GENERAL STEVE ROGERS, AKA CAPTAIN AMERICA, FOUNDED THE BLUE WITH ONLY TWO LAWS: HURT NO ONE, AND HELP WHEN YOU CAN. MOST PEOPLE LIVE IN PEACE, AND THOSE WHO DON'T FACE THE WRATH OF THE PUNISHERS.
THE IRON
PRESIDENT TONY STARK, AKA IRON MAN, USES LAW AND ORDER TO KEEP THE PEACE IN THE IRON. S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS CAREFULLY MONITOR SUPERHUMANS, MAKING SURE THEY HAVE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING THEY NEED TO STAY SAFE.

CIVIL WAR

TONY STARK SENT SHE-HULK INTO THE BLUE TO FIND THE ASSASSIN WHO KILLED MIRIAM SHARPE AND DISRUPTED THE PEACE TALKS BETWEEN STARK AND STEVE ROGERS. BEFORE SHE COULD REPORT WHAT SHE FOUND, SHE WAS CAPTURED BY THE ORIGINAL BLACK PANTHER, T'CHALLA, WHO'D BEEN PRESUMED DEAD AFTER THE EXPLOSION IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE. MEANWHILE, PETER PARKER STOLE RESOURCES FROM THE IRON TO ACTIVATE PROJECT BELLCURVE, A WEAPON THAT SHUTS DOWN SUPER-POWERS AND COULD GUARANTEE VICTORY FOR THE BLUE...

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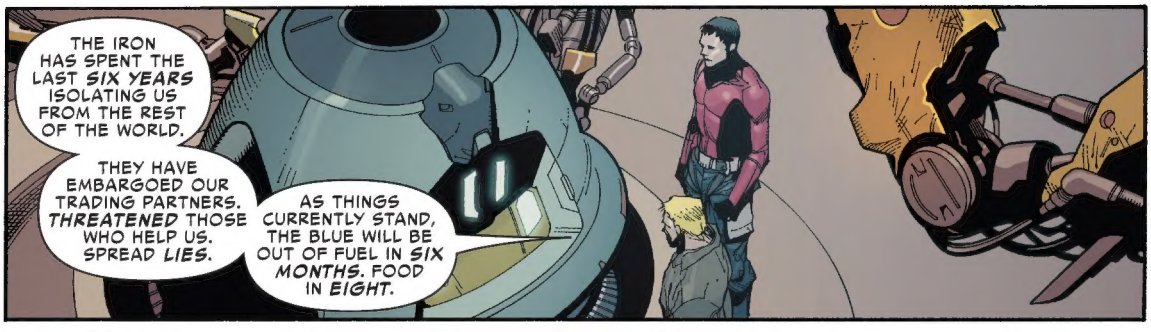
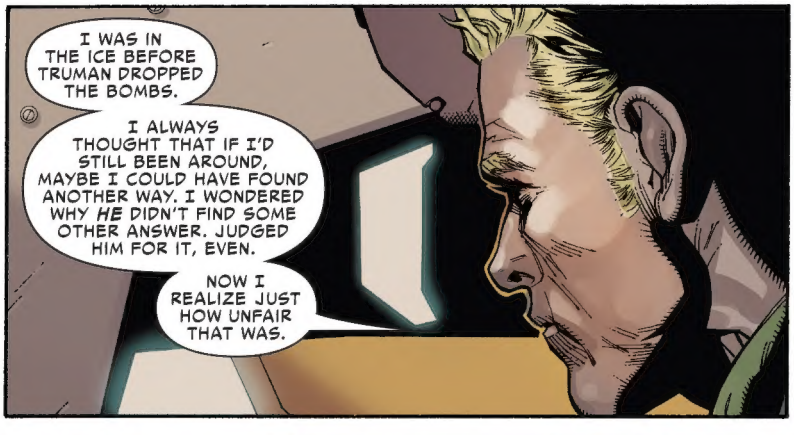
THE BLUE. DEEP INSIDE LIBERATION.
PROJECT BELLCURVE.
IT'S FINISHED, GENERAL ROGERS. BELLCURVE IS READY FOR DEPLOYMENT.
THANK YOU, HANK.
THE PLANS ARE SET, STEVE. EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY THE WAY YOU LAID IT OUT. ARE WE GOING?

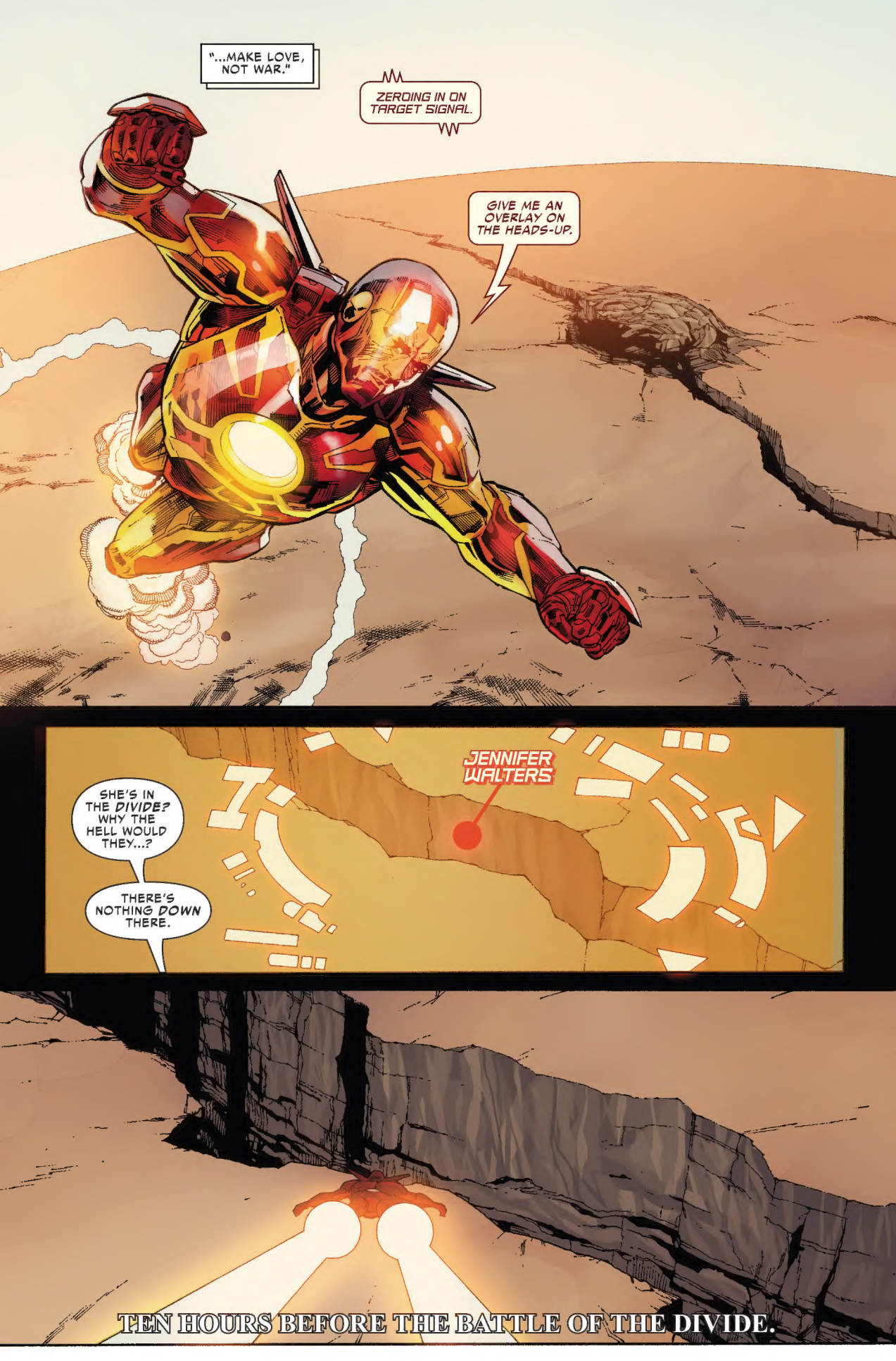

THE IRON HAS SPENT THE LAST SIX YEARS ISOLATING US FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
THEY HAVE EMBARGOED OUR TRADING PARTNERS. THREATENED THOSE WHO HELP US. SPREAD LIES.
AS THINGS CURRENTLY STAND, THE BLUE WILL BE OUT OF FUEL IN SIX MONTHS. FOOD IN EIGHT.

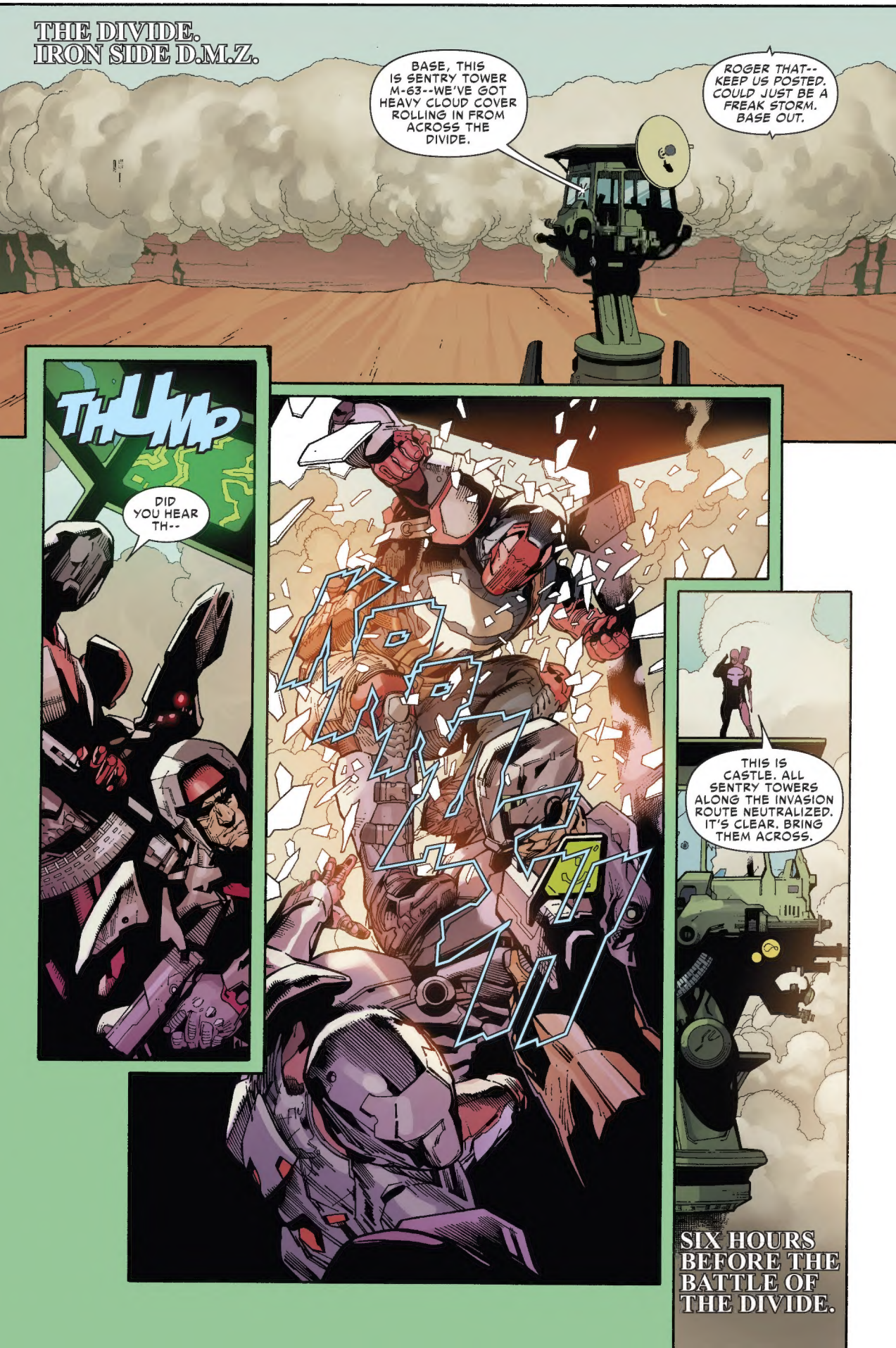

I WAS IN THE ICE BEFORE TRUMAN DROPPED THE BOMBS.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF I'D STILL BEEN AROUND, MAYBE I COULD HAVE FOUND ANOTHER WAY. I WONDERED WHY HE DIDN'T FIND SOME OTHER ANSWER. JUDGED HIM FOR IT, EVEN.
NOW I REALIZE JUST HOW UNFAIR THAT WAS.

CAN I HELP?

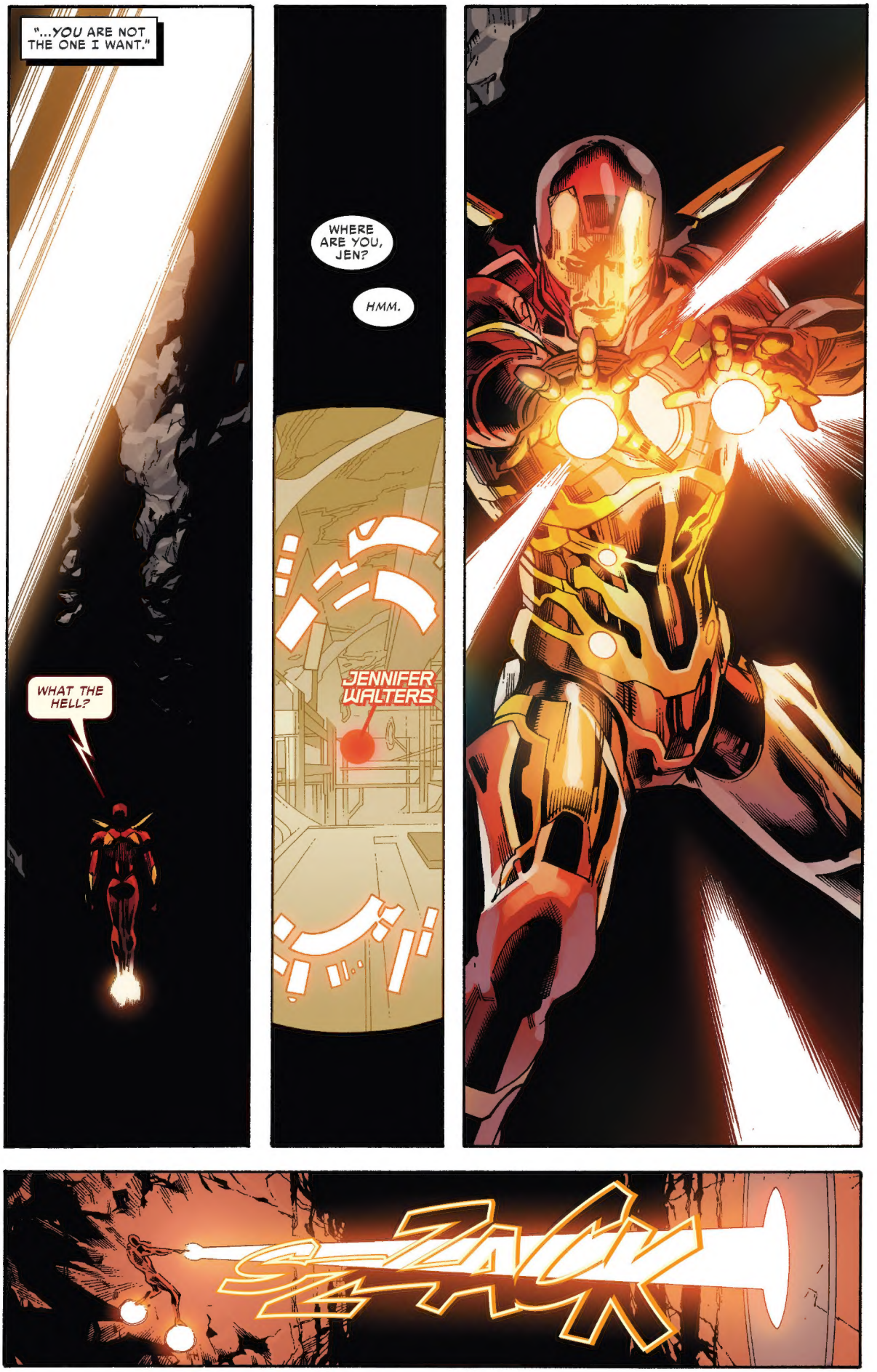
YES, PETER, YOU CAN.
BRING ME MY SHIELD.
FOURTEEN HOURS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE DIVIDE.

RESILIENT ALPHA.
CAPITAL CITY OF THE IRON.
I'M FINALLY DIALED IN ON JENNIFER'S SIGNAL. I DON'T HAVE AN EXACT LOCATION YET, BUT I'LL FIND HER.
OF COURSE, MR. PRESIDENT. BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD GO *ALONE?* OR...AND I SAY THIS WITH RESPECT...*AT ALL?*
WE'VE GOTTEN REPORTS OF TROOP MOVEMENTS INSIDE THE BLUE. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS WHILE YOU'RE GONE...
THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON I NEED TO GO ***NOW***, BARNES, AND ***ALONE***.
IF THE BLUE COMES IN ***FORCE***, YOU'LL NEED ALL THE TROOPS WE HAVE TO DEFEND THE IRON.
JEN WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING WHEN SHE WAS TAKEN. I NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT WAS. THERE'S A LARGER ISSUE AT STAKE.
*AND BEYOND THAT, I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU'RE SUGGESTING I SHOULD LEAVE THE WOMAN I LOVE IN THE HANDS OF...WHOEVER THE HELL **HAS** HER?*
NO, SIR. OF COURSE NOT.
I GIVE YOU FULL AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS IN CASE THE BLUE ATTACKS WHILE I'M GONE. I HAVE ABSOLUTE FAITH IN YOU.
THANK YOU, TONY. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.
HONESTLY, JAMES, YOU'LL PROBABLY DO A HELL OF A LOT BETTER THAN I WOULD.
I MEAN, YOU KNOW MY MOTTO: IN EVERY CASE, WHENEVER POSSIBLE...


"...MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR."
ZEROING IN ON TARGET SIGNAL.
GIVE ME AN OVERLAY ON THE HEADS-UP.
JENNIFER WALTERS
SHE'S IN THE DIVIDE? WHY THE HELL WOULD THEY...?
THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THERE.
TEN HOURS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE DIVIDE.


THE DIVIDE.
IRON SIDE D.M.Z.
BASE, THIS IS SENTRY TOWER M-63--WE'VE GOT HEAVY CLOUD COVER ROLLING IN FROM ACROSS THE DIVIDE.
ROGER THAT--KEEP US POSTED. COULD JUST BE A FREAK STORM. BASE OUT.
THUMP
DID YOU HEAR TH--
KO-KA-KA-KA-KA-KA!!
THIS IS CASTLE. ALL SENTRY TOWERS ALONG THE INVASION ROUTE NEUTRALIZED. IT'S CLEAR. BRING THEM ACROSS.
SIX HOURS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE DIVIDE.

WELL. I DO BELIEVE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO BECOME EXTREMELY INTERESTING.
WHY, T'CHALLA?
FOR GOD'S SAKE...WHY DID YOU HAVE MIRIAM SHARPE KILLED?
FOR MY PEOPLE, JENNIFER. I DID THAT, AND MUCH MORE BESIDES.
I DESTROYED THE NEGATIVE ZONE PRISON. I ENGINEERED THE DIVISION.
AND EVERY TIME THE BLUE AND THE IRON SEEMED LIKE THEY MIGHT FIND PEACE, I STEPPED IN TO MAKE SURE THE GREAT WAR CONTINUED.
YOU DID ALL THAT FOR WAKANDA?
WAKANDA IS GONE, T'CHALLA, AND NOTHING WILL BRING IT BACK.
SZZAX
I DO NOT CARE ABOUT WAKANDA!
MY HOME IS GONE, BUT I WILL HAVE A NEW ONE. FOR ME, AND MY PEOPLE.
THEN WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
OH, JENNIFER...


"...YOU ARE NOT THE ONE I WANT."
WHAT THE HELL?
WHERE ARE YOU, JEN?
HMM.
JENNIFER WALTERS
ZACK

HUH.
PROXIMITY ALERT! MULTIPLE INCOMING PROJECTILES!
TAKE EVASIVE ACTI--
KRK-OM

FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE DIVIDE.

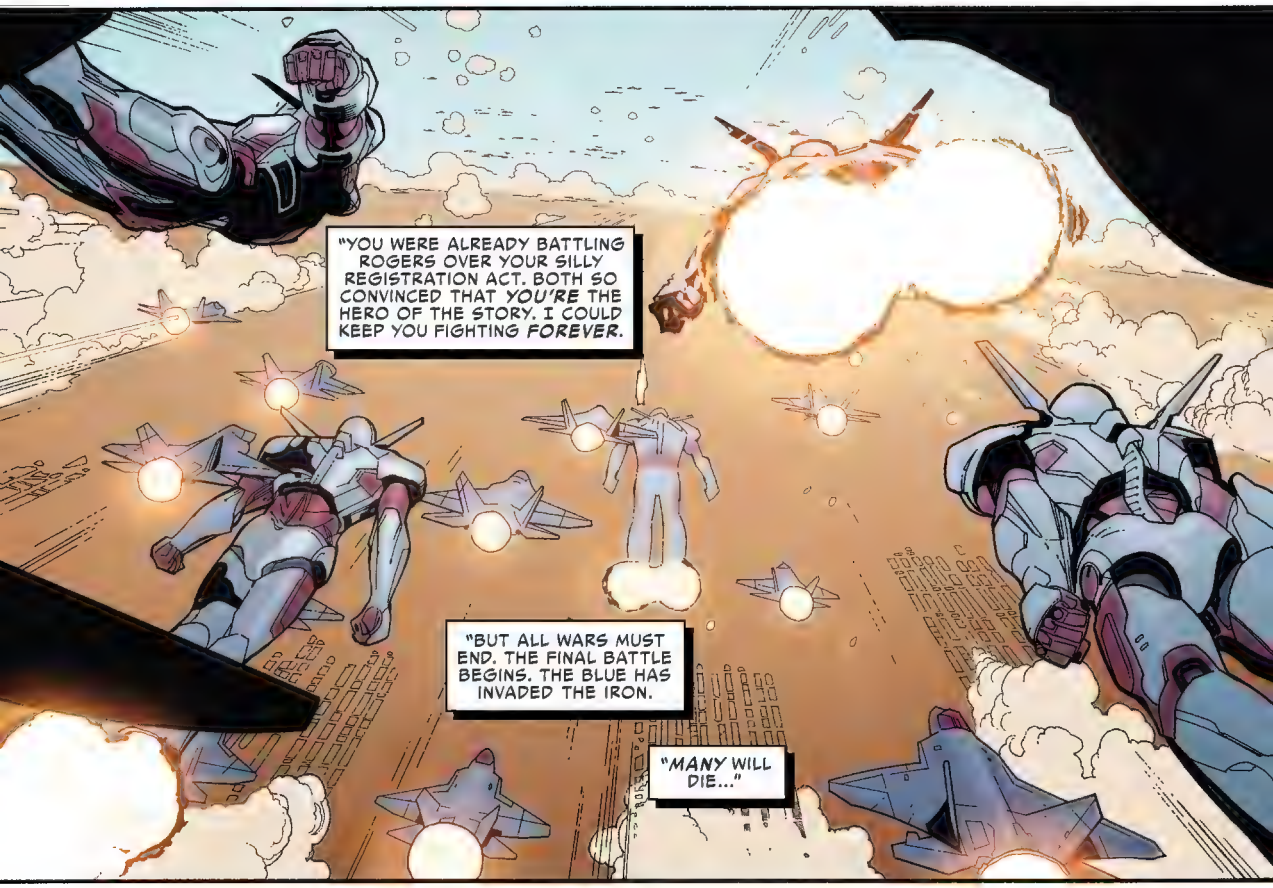
ACROSS THE DIVIDE.
INSIDE THE IRON.
YOU ARE MY PEOPLE.
YOU CHOSE ME TO LEAD YOU THROUGH ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S DARKEST HOURS. I WAS HUMBLED BY THAT CHOICE. I STILL AM.
WE SURVIVED THE *BREAKING OF OUR NATION.* WE *FOUGHT,* AND WE *DIED,* AND WE FORGED A *NEW* NATION. *TOGETHER.*
THE BLUE.

FOR SIX YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A NEAR-CONSTANT BATTLE WITH THE IRON. CHILDREN LIVE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS WAR WHO HAVE NEVER KNOWN A NATION AT PEACE.
THOSE CHILDREN ARE OUR ATTEMPT TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD ABOVE THE RUSHING TIDE OF HISTORY. A WAY TO CARRY OUR VALUES INTO THE FUTURE.
BUT WHAT HAVE WE TAUGHT THEM? THE ONLY PLACE THEY CAN LEARN ABOUT A UNITED, PEACEFUL NATION IS THEIR STORYBOOKS.
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A JUST WAR. BUT THERE ARE, SOMETIMES, NECESSARY ONES.
KNOW THAT I DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE LIGHTLY.
I HAVE BEEN A SOLDIER FOR A VERY LONG TIME. I KNOW THAT WARS CAN BLAZE FOREVER, IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO. THEY CONSUME--LIGHT, HOPE, ENERGY, DREAMS--UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING BUT WAR.
THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY. I FEAR THAT UNLESS WE ACT, RIGHT NOW, THEN WE WILL BECOME A NATION WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS TO FIGHT. AND TO BREED MORE FIGHTERS TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE AFTER WE ARE GONE.
OUR ONLY GIFT TO THE GENERATION THAT FOLLOWS US...
...WILL BE DEATH.

THAT BRIDGE WAS BUILT BY MIRIAM SHARPE AND HER PEOPLE TO SYMBOLIZE THE IDEA THAT BLUE AND IRON COULD COEXIST. THAT THERE WAS A PATH BETWEEN US. A PATH TO *PEACE*.
BUT THE IRON THINKS WE ARE A *NUISANCE*. AN OBSTACLE TO THEIR PLANS TO EXPAND THEIR TERRITORY.
THEY WANT TO *TAKE OUR LAND*. YOUR *CHILDREN'S* LAND. THE LAND YOU HAVE *BLED* FOR.
MIRIAM SHARPE IS *DEAD*. EVEN THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN HER CAUSE HAVE ABANDONED HER SYMBOL. THE BRIDGE LIES *EMPTY*.
DO IT.
YES, SIR.
KLIK
BOOOM
"THERE'S NO GOING BACK."
OUR CHILDREN MUST KNOW PEACE AS SOMETHING OTHER THAN A *FAIRY TALE*.
TODAY, THIS WAR *ENDS*.
TWO HOURS UNTIL THE BATTLE OF THE DIVIDE.

HELLO, T'CHALLA. NICE TO SEE YOU, THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
ALSO, SCREW YOU.
COME NOW, TONY. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE *PLEASED*. MY AGENTS TELL ME YOU *AGONIZED* OVER HOW IT ALL WENT SO WRONG ON YOUR WATCH.
BUT NOW YOU KNOW-- *NOTHING* THAT HAPPENED WAS YOUR FAULT.
HE'S BEEN PLAYING YOU AND STEVE *AGAINST* EACH OTHER, TONY.

WHAT A DANGEROUS GAME. WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
I ORIGINALLY MEANT TO *CONQUER* THIS LAND. BUT THAT PLAN FAILED, AND I WAS LEFT NEARLY ALONE, ABANDONED, WITH EXTREMELY LIMITED RESOURCES.
I COULD NO LONGER MAKE WAR. BUT I COULD *USE* ONE.


"YOU WERE ALREADY BATTLING ROGERS OVER YOUR SILLY REGISTRATION ACT. BOTH SO CONVINCED THAT *YOU'RE* THE HERO OF THE STORY. I COULD KEEP YOU FIGHTING *FOREVER*.
"BUT ALL WARS MUST END. THE FINAL BATTLE BEGINS. THE BLUE HAS INVADED THE IRON.
"*MANY* WILL DIE..."

...I'VE MADE SURE OF IT.
YOU ARE ME, TONY...
...AND I AM YOU. THAT'S THE ENTIRE POINT. THAT'S WHAT MADE THIS SO *EASY*.
WHEN THE BATTLE IS DONE, AND MOST OF THE SUPERHUMANS ARE DEAD, MY PEOPLE AND I WILL TAKE CONTROL OF WHAT'S LEFT.
THAT IS WHY I BROUGHT YOUR WOMAN HERE. AS A *LURE*. SO MUCH EASIER TO REPLACE YOU IF YOU ARE ALREADY *GONE*.
IS THAT RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE, I THINK WE'RE ABOUT *DONE* HERE.
YOU AREN'T THE BLACK PANTHER.
T'CHALLA WAS ONE OF THE SMARTEST MEN I EVER MET. HE'D HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO KEEP ME ALIVE.
HE'D HAVE KILLED ME RIGHT AWAY.
OH, PLEASE. WE DESTROYED YOUR ARMOR, AND THIS FACILITY HAS ACTIVE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS TO COUNTER EXTREMIS AND EVERYTHING ELSE YOU'VE EVER DEVISED.
THERE WILL BE NO LAST-MINUTE ESCAPE. YOU ARE *DONE*, STARK. WITHOUT YOUR TECHNOLOGY, YOU ARE JUST A *MAN*.
AM I?

FOR REASONS THAT WILL SHORTLY BECOME OBVIOUS, I DON'T ADVERTISE EVERYTHING I INVENT, MY MYSTERIOUS FRIEND.
W-WHAT ARE YOU...
FOR EXAMPLE, YEARS AGO, I CLONED A THUNDER GOD. IN RETROSPECT... NOT A GREAT IDEA. I ONLY TRIED IT ONCE.
BUT I KEPT THE TECH.
KZZAK
NNNGH
HUH. A SKRULL. MY MONEY WAS ON MYSTIQUE.
EMPRESS VERANKE? DO YOU REQUIRE ASSIST--
AH, THAT'S JUST GREAT.
TIME TO DIE, PAWN.

BATTLE OF THE DIVIDE.
HOUR TWO.

I.A.S. PEPPER.
COMMAND FLAGSHIP
OF THE IRON FORCES.

TELL KETCH AND WORTHINGTON TO ADVANCE, BUT KEEP THEIR FORCES *SEPARATE*.

THE LEGION AND THE HOST NEED TO HIT *OPPOSITE FLANKS* OF THE BLUE FORCES. IF THEY GET TOO CLOSE, THEY'LL JUST ATTACK EACH *OTHER*.

YES, COLONEL BARNES. RIGHT AWAY.

WHY IS ROGERS *DOING* THIS? ATTACKING THE IRON IN STRENGTH...IT'S NOT *LIKE* HIM. I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN HIM TO BE MUCH MORE *SUBTLE*.

IT DOESN'T *MATTER* WHY, COLONEL DANVERS. IT MATTERS THAT IT'S *HAPPENING*.

GET BACK OUT THERE WITH YOUR SQUADRON AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. *NO MERCY*.

WHERE'S *TONY*, JAMES?

I'LL JUST SAY THIS ONCE, CAROL: TONY LEFT *ME* IN COMMAND. CHECK THE LOGS. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE IT.

I ALSO DON'T CARE.

SHAPE-CHANGING SONS OF--ɨNNGHɨ
AGH!
SHE-HULK RESCUE PUNY BOYFRIEND!
KRRACK
THANK YOU. I CAN'T USE THAT THOR TRICK FOR LONG, UNLESS I WANT TO FRY MY ENTIRE NERVOUS SYSTEM. VERANKE?
GONE.
WE NEED TO *FIND* HER--IF SHE GETS AWAY, SHE CAN CHANGE INTO *ANYONE*. SHE'LL VANISH.
I AGREE--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.
I NEED TO TELL YOU WHAT I SAW IN *STEELTOWN*.

IT'S TIME, PETER. YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT TO DO? YOU'LL ONLY HAVE A FEW SECONDS.
YES. I'LL PULL BACK THE HEAVY HITTERS ON YOUR SIGNAL. EVERYONE'S EXPECTING YOU TO PULL A RABBIT OUT OF YOUR HAT, STEVE.
THE BLUE AND THE IRON HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO WELL *BALANCED*. IT'S PARTLY WHY THIS DAMN WAR WON'T *END*.
BUT IF WE GET EVEN A *MINOR* ADVANTAGE, I THINK WE CAN *WIN*.
THE IRON WILL LOSE A GOOD CHUNK OF THEIR POWERS, BUT WE'LL LOSE SOME OF OURS TOO. IT'LL BE CHAOS. I'LL NEED YOU TO HOLD THINGS *TOGETHER*, PETER. NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU KNOW I WILL, CAP. BUT FOR THIS TO WORK, THE IRON'S POWERED FIGHTERS HAVE TO CONVERGE ON THE BOMB. HOW WILL YOU GET THEM CLOSE?
OH, I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET THEM PUT ME IN CHARGE, PETER. I MADE A BETTER *SOLDIER* THAN I EVER DID A GENERAL.
GO!
GOING.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, PERMISSION?
YOU WANT ME?
HERE I AM!
TO BE CONCLUDED.